

June 26, 2012

I'm glad to have this opportunity to tell you about Debbie Fucoloro, but first, please let me introduce myself.

My name is Mary Sturm. I have taught art and media at St. Clement School in Des Peres, Missouri for 23 years. There, I started the school's technology committee and our media literacy committee. I have taught for 33 years. I have a master's degree from St. Louis University. I have won six awards, the latest in 2008, when I was recognized with a regional award from the National Catholic Education Association. I have worked with Debbie Fucoloro for many years.

Debbie has a big heart. She cares deeply for those in need, is able to see what others need, and is generous with her time when acting on her compassion for others. In our school, she made it her business to discover the needs of the teachers at our school and to find the best solution that the latest technology could offer. She was quick to help me with my tech questions. She generously shares her discoveries with others. In one-on-one settings she held the hand of many teachers, giving them the reassurance and support to experiment with the technology they needed for their curriculums.

Debbie is passionate. She is strongly convicted to the value of project-based classroom experiences that lead to deep learning. She expects the best from her students and herself. She is driven by her curiosity, keeping abreast of the latest in technology for the classroom and in research in media and online social networks. Her passion excites curiosity and the explorer's spirit in others.

Because Debbie is driven to excel in all of her endeavors, she works hard. Because she is smart, organized, and efficient, she is versatile, able to juggle many responsibilities, and accomplish much. For instance, while working on her doctorate, she arranged and managed the videoconferences at our schools, and did media set-ups for our assemblies. She inspired and facilitated our school's yearly Culture Fair. She presented technology workshops for groups of our teachers as well as at educational technology conferences. She planned and facilitated many workshops and media literacy experiences for our teachers, students and parents. One of her many media productions with the students won an award. She was a vital link of communication between the tech director and the teachers.

Debbie has a fun personality and highly values personal relationships. At the same time, she has a high degree of professionalism. My life has been very enriched by knowing and working with her. I will miss that.

Thanks for this opportunity,
Mary Sturm